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ELEKTRA
OCT
#11
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MILLIGAN
DEODATO, JR.
KOBLISH
AMERICAN SAMURAI
PART 1 OF 3
STARRING
DAREDEVIL!
MIKE DEODATO JR
DIRECT EDITION
$1.99 US $2.80 CAN

LISSEN UP. WE'RE THE CLOWNS HERE!
IF ANYONE ELSE TRIES TO BE FUNNY, WE'LL TEAR THEIR EARS OFF AND SHOOT OUT THEIR EYES.
GOT THAT, MRS. MOP?
DO YOU GUYS DO KIDDIES' PARTIES TOO?
THE NEXT MOMENT IS A BLUR.
A FIGURE FLYING THROUGH THE AIR.
PHOSPHORESCENT LIGHT BOUNCING OFF DEVIL'S HORNS...

Stan Lee presents:

the GOOD the BAD and the SOMEWHAT CONFUSED

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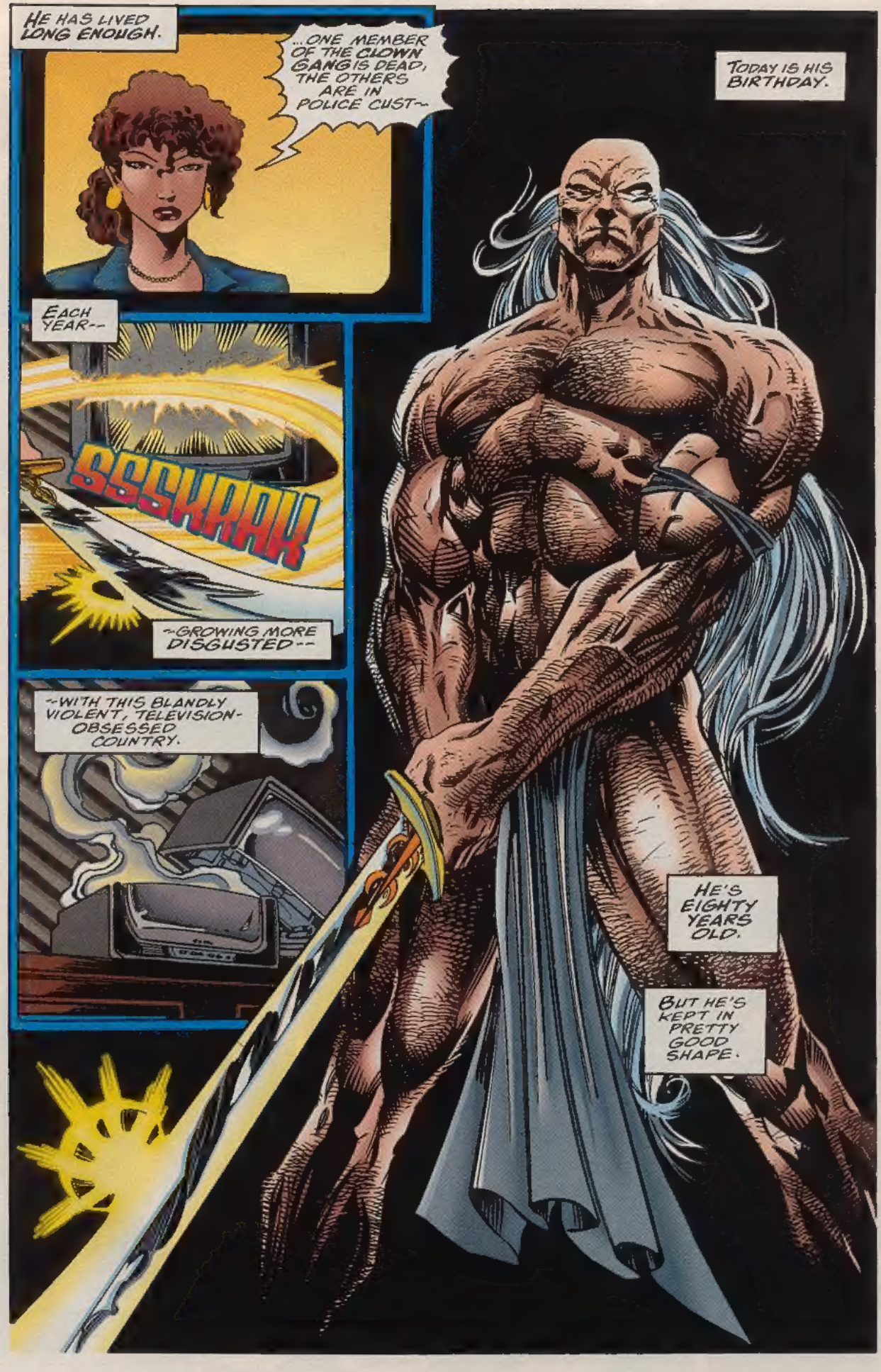
BACK OFF. I'VE BEEN TRACKING THESE GUYS FOR WEEKS.
ME TOO. THEY'RE MINE.
LET'S CONTINUE THIS AFTER WE'VE APPREHENDED THEM, Huh?
APPREHENDED..?
THERE WAS A TIME YOU'D HAVE BEEN HAPPY JUST TO KILL THEM!
YEAH.
AND THERE WAS A TIME I'D HAVE BEEN HAPPY TO SEE YOU.
OUCH.
SHE DIDN'T MEAN TO SOUND QUITE SO HARD.

THOUGH SHE ALWAYS KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN...
ALWAYS WONDERED HOW THEY'D BOTH REACT WHEN IT DID.
SHE'LL TRY TO BE A LITTLE NICER TO HIM.
NOT AS FAST AS YOU USED TO BE.
Hmm.
I TRIED.
HERE SHE COMES!
SEND IN THE CLOWNS.
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
YOU'RE REALLY STARTING TO IRRITATE ME.
BAM BAM BAM
KPOW KPOW KPOW

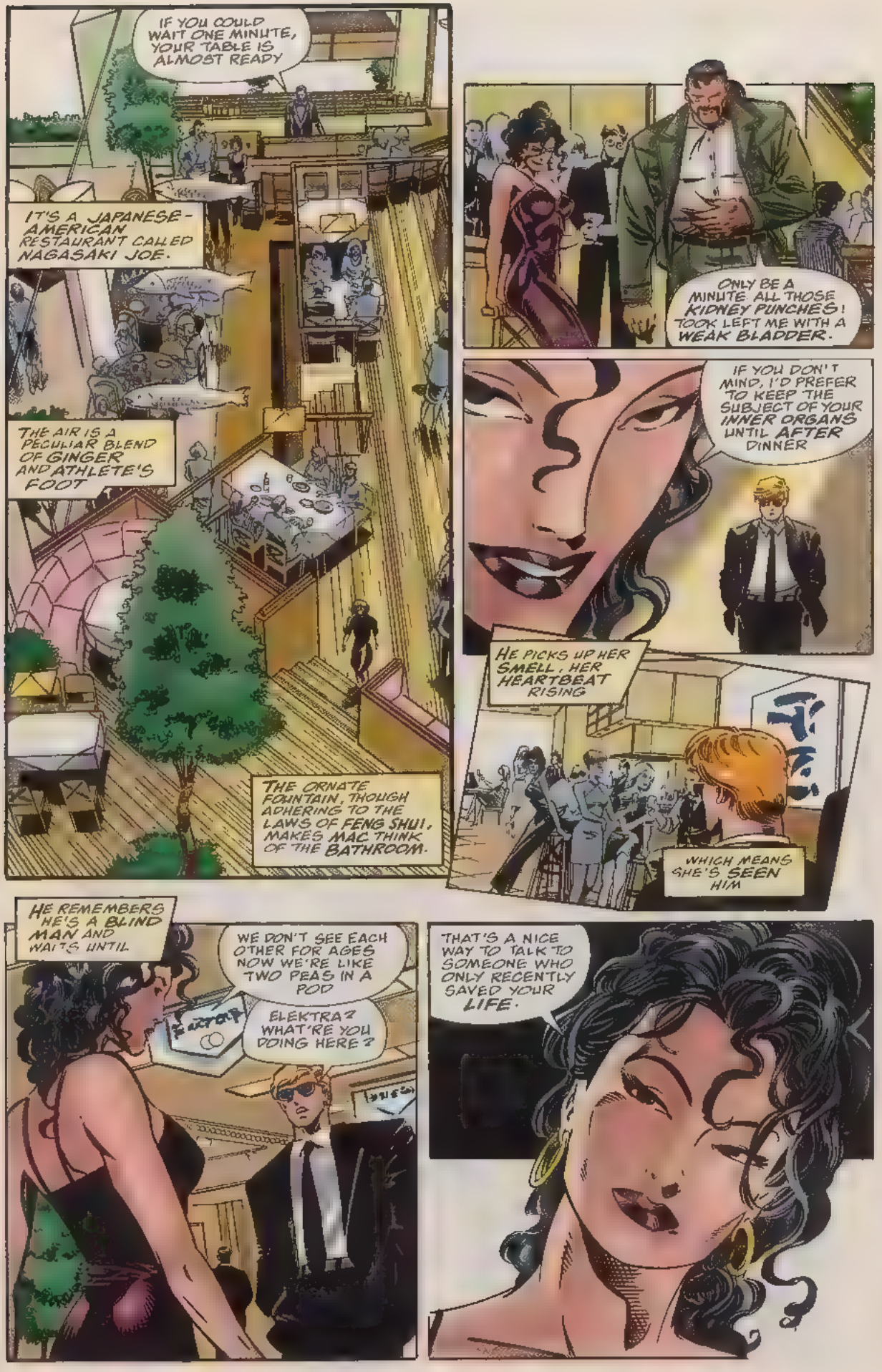
IT'S FUNNY, THOUGH.
SHE KIND OF LIKES THE IDEA.
OF MATT MURDOCK WATCHING HER.
WHUD
HE USED TO LIKE WATCHING HER GET DRESSED IN THE MORNING.
SHE'D TAKE HER TIME, UNLIKE NOW.
KRAK
NOW YOU DIE, HORN-HEAD!
SHAKK
GEE WHIZ.
I SAVED YOUR LIFE.

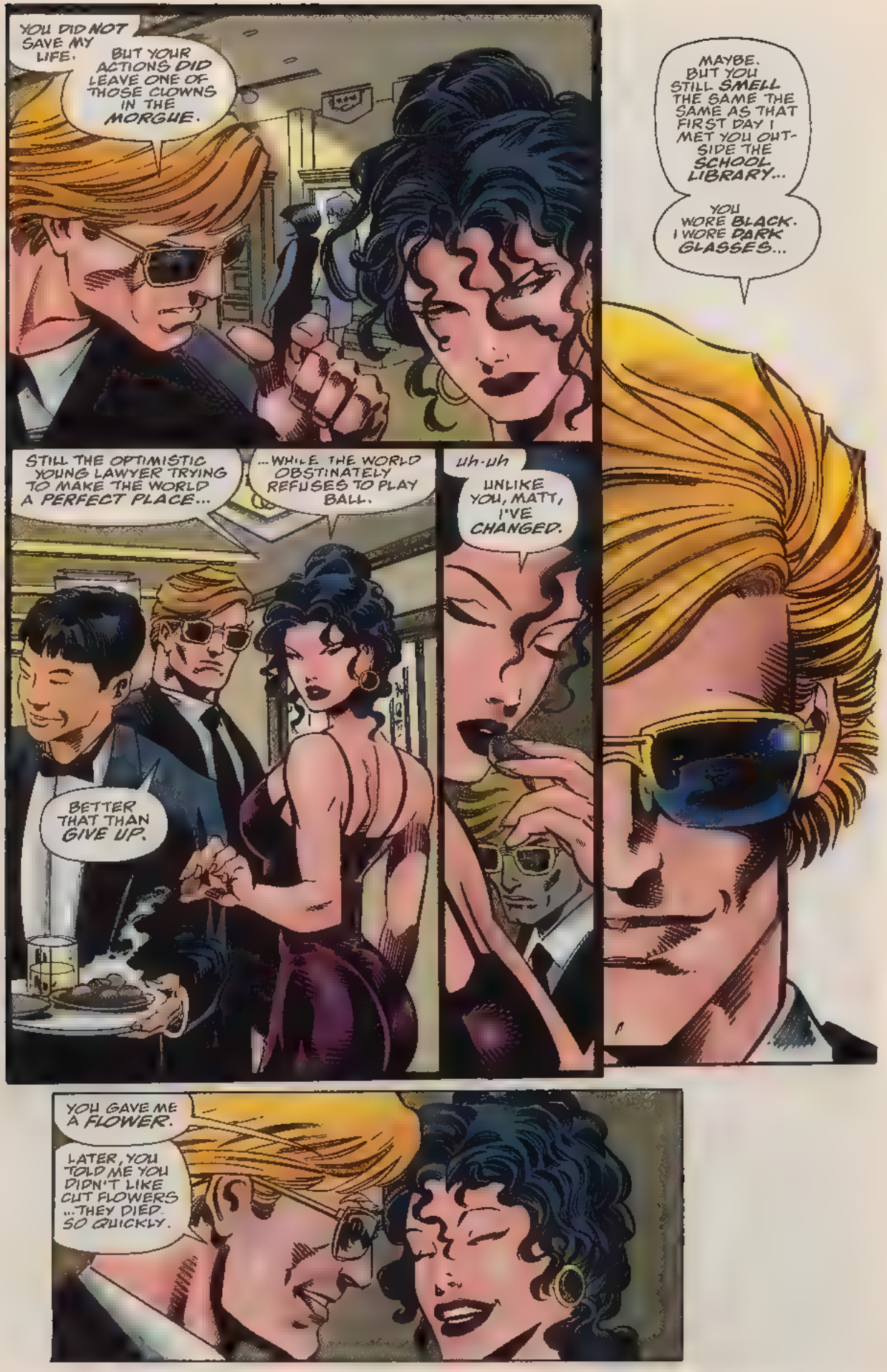
I HAD IT COVERED, ELEKTRA.
HE DIDN'T HAVE TO DIE.
THANKFULLY, THERE'LL BE NO FUTURE AS FAR AS WE'RE CONCERNED.
PARDON ME. IN THE FUTURE, I'LL LET THEM KILL YOU FIRST, THEN ASK QUESTIONS.
SUITS ME.
WELL, UNTIL THE NEXT TIME YOU ALMOST BLOW A CAREFULLY LAID TRAP...
ELEKTRA!
THAT'S MY NAME.
THANKS.


HE HAS LIVED LONG ENOUGH.
...ONE MEMBER OF THE CLOWN GANG IS DEAD, THE OTHERS ARE IN POLICE CUST--
TODAY IS HIS BIRTHDAY.
EACH YEAR--
SSSKRAK
--GROWING MORE DISGUSTED--
--WITH THIS BLANDLY VIOLENT, TELEVISION-OBSESSED COUNTRY.
HE'S EIGHTY YEARS OLD.
BUT HE'S KEPT IN PRETTY GOOD SHAPE.

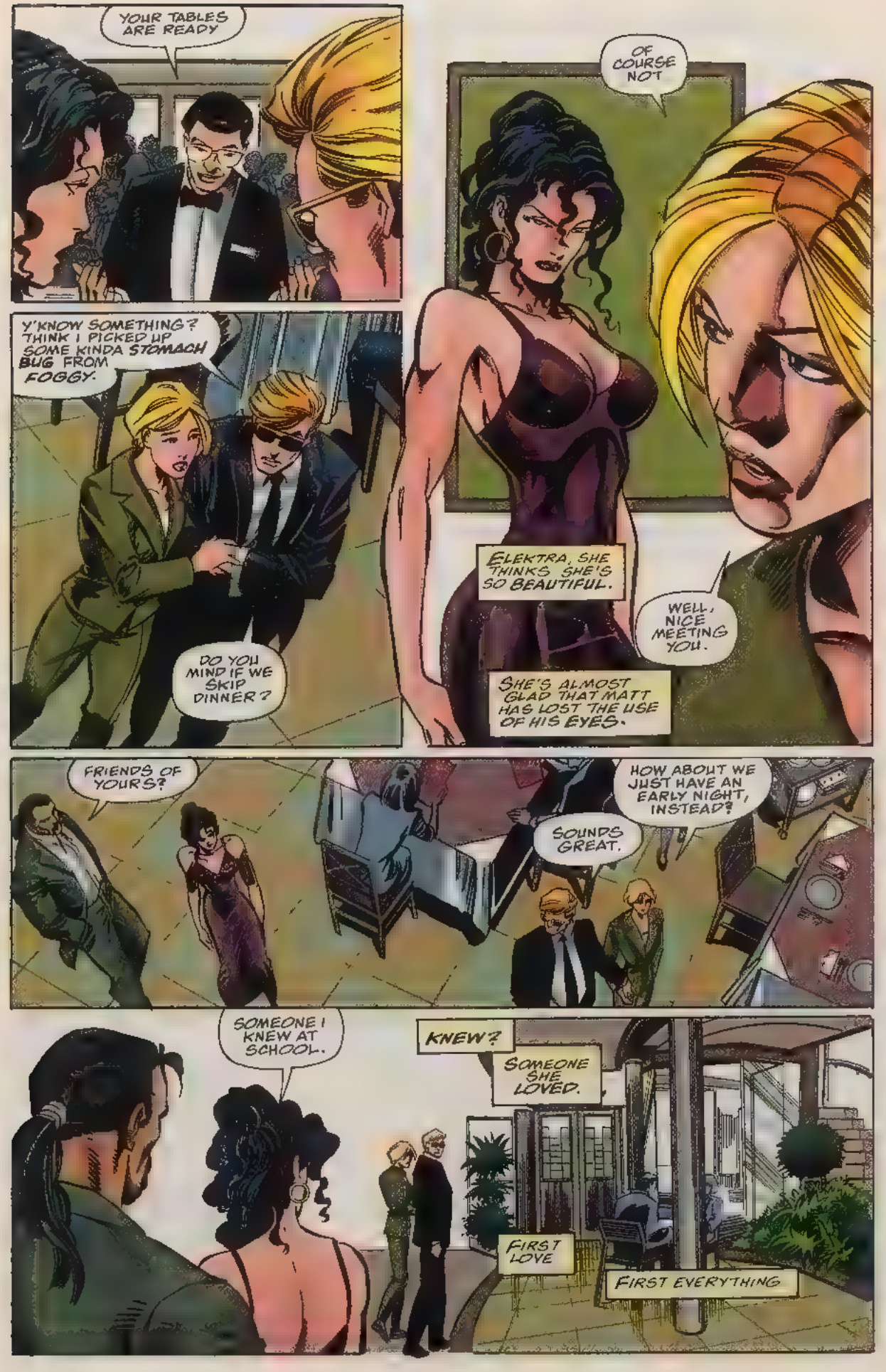
IT IS SAID THAT THE BAMBOO SHINAI IS INVESTED WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE REAL SWORD.
KLAK
BUT SHE KNOWS THIS IS NOT TRUE.
IT IS MERELY A SUBSTITUTE.
TAKING THE PLACE OF THE REAL THING.
WHOK
SO THAT THE COMBATANTS ARE NOT TOO SERIOUSLY HURT.
KRAK
UGHN!
THAT'S ENOUGH, ELEKTRA!
I'D LIKE TO BE ABLE TO WALK HOME THIS EVENING.
SORRY TO BREAK THIS UP...
... BUT HAS ANYONE SEEN THE DIVINE KONNIE?

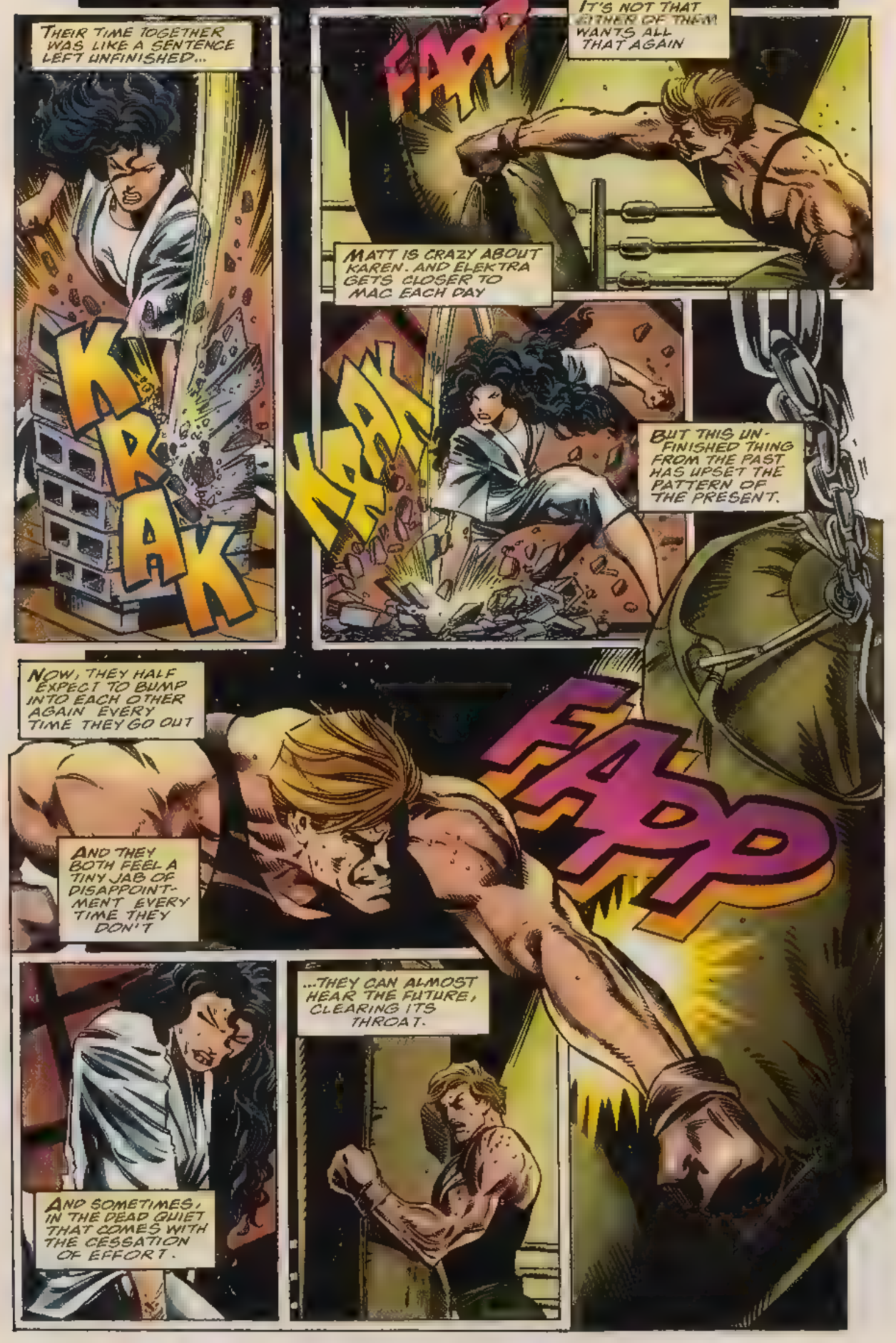
THE WAY SHE WORKED MAC OVER ANNOYS HER.
IT BETRAYED A LACK OF DISCIPLINE.
HI, KING. I THINK SHE'S OUT WITH NINA.
PITY. PERHAPS IF I CAN CATCH UP WITH HER, YOU'D LIKE TO JOIN US FOR DINNER?
SOME OTHER TIME. MAC AND I HAVE ALREADY BOOKED A TABLE.
FOR TWO.
TAKE MY ADVICE, BROTHER. DON'T GET TOO HUNG UP ON KONNIE.
MAC, WE'VE HAD DINNER ONCE. I'VE KISSED HER ON THE CHEEK, ONCE, AND I'D LIKE TO HAVE DINNER WITH HER AGAIN.
I DON'T THINK THAT'S ENTIRELY INCOMPATIBLE WITH MY PURSUIT OF THE PERFECT UNION OF MIND AND BODY.


IF YOU COULD WAIT ONE MINUTE, YOUR TABLE IS ALMOST READY
IT'S A JAPANESE-AMERICAN RESTAURANT CALLED NAGASAKI JOE.
THE AIR IS A PECULIAR BLEND OF GINGER AND ATHLETE'S FOOT
THE ORNATE FOUNTAIN, THOUGH ADHERING TO THE LAWS OF FENG SHUI, MAKES MAC THINK OF THE BATHROOM.
ONLY BE A MINUTE. ALL THOSE KIDNEY PUNCHES! TOOK LEFT ME WITH A WEAK BLADDER.
IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'D PREFER TO KEEP THE SUBJECT OF YOUR INNER ORGANS UNTIL AFTER DINNER
HE PICKS UP HER SMELL, HER HEARTBEAT RISING
WHICH MEANS SHE'S SEEN HIM
HE REMEMBERS HE'S A BLIND MAN AND WAITS UNTIL
WE DON'T SEE EACH OTHER FOR AGES NOW WE'RE LIKE TWO PEAS IN A POD
ELEKTRA? WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
THAT'S A NICE WAY TO TALK TO SOMEONE WHO ONLY RECENTLY SAVED YOUR LIFE.


YOU DID NOT SAVE MY LIFE.
BUT YOUR ACTIONS DID LEAVE ONE OF THOSE CLOWNS IN THE MORGUE.
MAYBE. BUT YOU STILL SMELL THE SAME THE SAME AS THAT FIRST DAY I MET YOU OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL LIBRARY...
YOU WORE BLACK. I WORE DARK GLASSES...
STILL THE OPTIMISTIC YOUNG LAWYER TRYING TO MAKE THE WORLD A PERFECT PLACE...
...WHILE THE WORLD OBSTINATELY REFUSES TO PLAY BALL.
BETTER THAN GIVE UP.
uh-uh
UNLIKE YOU, MATT, I'VE CHANGED.
YOU GAVE ME A FLOWER.
LATER, YOU TOLD ME YOU DIDN'T LIKE CUT FLOWERS ...THEY DIED SO QUICKLY.

YES, DIED.
GOD, SHE THINKS
WHY MUST IT ALWAYS COME DOWN TO DEATH WITH HS?
THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO
AN AWFUL LOT HAS HAPPENED SINCE THEN
HI, HONEY. HOPE YOU WEREN'T TOO MISERABLE WITHOUT ME.
OH, KAREN. HI I... UH
UNLIKE YOU TO BE TONGUE-TIED.
THIS IS AN OLD FRIEND.
NOT ALL THAT OLD, BY THE LOOK OF IT.
OH, SHE'S GOT A GOOD PLASTIC SURGEON. HA HA HA!
MUST BE VERY COMFORTING.
ELEKTRA, THIS IS KAREN. MY GIRLFRIEND.
NICE TO MEET YOU, KAREN.


YOUR TABLES ARE READY
OF COURSE NOT
Y'KNOW SOMETHING? THINK I PICKED UP SOME KINDA STOMACH BUG FROM FOGGY.
DO YOU MIND IF WE SKIP DINNER?
ELEKTRA, SHE THINKS SHE'S SO BEAUTIFUL.
WELL, NICE MEETING YOU.
SHE'S ALMOST GLAD THAT MATT HAS LOST THE USE OF HIS EYES.
FRIENDS OF YOURS?
HOW ABOUT WE JUST HAVE AN EARLY NIGHT, INSTEAD?
SOUNDS GREAT.
SOMEONE I KNEW AT SCHOOL.
KNEW?
SOMEONE SHE LOVED.
FIRST LOVE
FIRST EVERYTHING


THEIR TIME TOGETHER WAS LIKE A SENTENCE LEFT UNFINISHED...
KRAK
FAP!
IT'S NOT THAT EITHER OF THEM WANTS ALL THAT AGAIN
MATT IS CRAZY ABOUT KAREN. AND ELEKTRA GETS CLOSER TO MAC EACH DAY
KAK
BUT THIS UN-FINISHED THING FROM THE PAST HAS UPSET THE PATTERN OF THE PRESENT.
NOW, THEY HALF EXPECT TO BUMP INTO EACH OTHER AGAIN EVERY TIME THEY GO OUT
FAPP
AND THEY BOTH FEEL A TINY JAB OF DISAPPOINT-MENT EVERY TIME THEY DON'T
...THEY CAN ALMOST HEAR THE FUTURE, CLEARING ITS THROAT.
AND SOMETIMES, IN THE DEAD QUIET THAT COMES WITH THE CESSATION OF EFFORT.

ON THE ROAD WITH THE CLOWNS...
SHUT UP, BILLY!
QUIT TELLIN' ME TO SHUT UP! I THINK THOSE CREEPS IN THEIR STUPID COSTUMES CONTRAVENED OUR CIVIL RIGHTS.
DON'T MATTER! IT WAS ENTRAPMENT! COSTUMED ENTRAPMENT!
WE WERE ROBBIN' A STINKIN' BANK, BILLY!
JERK
WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT?!
THE VAN'S STOPPED! WHY'S THE VAN STOPPED?
SKREEEEEH
THAT SWORD! IT'S-- IT'S--
SHARP.
SHRRRRRPPP
M-MAYBE IT'S SOME ONE COME TO FREE US!
SHRENGH
I THINK YOU'RE BEING A LITTLE OPTIMISTIC THERE, BILLY

LATER.
NEVER SEEN SO MUCH BLOOD AND GUTS!
AND I USED TO BE IN THE MECHANICALLY RECOVERED MEAT BUSINESS..
OKAY SO THEY'RE ALL VERY DEAD HOW DID IT HAPPEN?
SOMEONE OR THING SMASHES THROUGH OUR WINDOW, THEN KNOCKS US OUT JUST BY TOUCHING US.
POLIC
WHAT? LIKE, SOME KIND OF MARTIAL ARTS STUFF, HUH?
RIGHT
NEXT, I'M WAKING UP, LOOKING AT WHAT MY PRISONERS HAD FOR DINNER.
DO I GET PAID OVER-TIME FOR THIS?

GREENWICH VILLAGE
HE WASN'T SURE HOW TO DRESS FOR THIS
IN THE END HE OPTED FOR FORMAL.
WHAT'S THIS? A PEEPING TOM?
HOW COULD YOU THINK SUCH A THING?
OF A CONSCIEN-TIOUS LAWYER...
...AND ALL-'ROUND GOOD GUY LIKE ME?
I COULD PUNCTURE YOU IN SELF-DEFENSE. YOU WERE BREAKING INTO MY APART-MENT.
AH, ELEKTRA.
..I STILL REMEMBER YOUR... SAIS!

VERY FUNNY
SO WHY ARE YOU UP SO LATE, ANYHOW?
COULDN'T SLEEP.
GUILTY CONSCIENCE?
GAS, IF YOU MUST KNOW
AND WHAT WOULD I HAVE TO BE GUILTY ABOUT?
HOW ABOUT A TRIO OF BUTCHERED CLOWNS?
THEY WERE KILLED BY SOMEONE WITH MARTIAL ARTS TRAINING.
SOMEONE VERY FAST AND VERY STRONG, AND WITH A VERY UNDERDEVELOPED SENSE OF THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE.
YEAH I HEARD ABOUT THAT
I'M REALLY CUT UP ABOUT IT.

BEFORE YOU SAY ANYTHING YOU MIGHT REGRET, AND MIGHT MAKE ME THROW YOU OFF THIS FIRE ESCAPE...
...I DIDN'T DO IT.
BUT THANKS FOR THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, ANYHOW.
YOU ALWAYS WERE TOUCHY.
I DIDN'T FOR ONE MINUTE THINK YOU KILLED THOSE GUYS.
THAT'S RIGHT. I'M WAY TOO NICE TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
I WAS THINKING MORE ALONG THE LINES THAT IF YOU KILLED THEM...
...YOU WOULDN'T LEAVE SUCH A BLOODY MESS.

IT LOOKS AS THOUGH WE'VE GOT ANOTHER VIGILANTE ON OUR HANDS, ELEKTRA.
THE ONLY THING ON MY HANDS RIGHT NOW ARE MY LEGS.
SEEING AS WE STARTED THIS TOGETHER, I THOUGHT... WE SHOULD FINISH IT.
WE DON'T KNOW WHO WE MIGHT BE UP AGAINST.
I SUPPOSE TWO OF US MIGHT CLEAR IT UP QUICKER.
RIGHT. SO WE CAN BOTH GET ON WITH OUR LIVES.
I RECOGNIZED YOUR DINNER DATE, BY THE WAY. MCKINLEY STEWART. A GOOD FIGHTER.
YOU KNOW ME. I ALWAYS DID HAVE A THING FOR BOXERS.
SO, DO WE TEAM UP? ELEKTRA AND DARE-DEVIL VERSUS THE COLD-BLOODED CLOWN-KILLER?
OKAY.
WE'LL START RIGHT AWAY...
TOMORROW MORNING.
MCKINLEY IS WAITING IN THE OTHER ROOM FOR ME.
HEY, SURE.
KAREN WILL BE GETTING HOME FROM WORK IN A FEW HOURS ANYWAY...

THIS IS GOOD, HE THINKS, GOING UP-TOWN.
IT'LL BE A GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP.
EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED BETWEEN THEM, THAT'S WAY IN THE PAST.
THERE IS NO ULTERIOR MOTIVE IN CONTACTING HER. JUST PLAIN PRACTICAL GOOD SENSE.
SOMEWHERE BETWEEN EAST FORTY AND FORTY-FIRST STREET...
...HE STOPS LYING TO HIMSELF.
HEY, WHO'S OUT THERE IN THE BIG, BAD CITY TONIGHT?
THE USUAL, MAC...
THE GOOD... THE BAD...
...THE SOME-WHAT CON-FUSED.
NEXT: ELEKTRA & DAREDEVIL TOGETHER AGAIN!

SAI'D BAR

Dear Bobbie and Polly,

I never read comics in my life, but when I saw Elektra in DC vs. Marvel, I thought she was very cool.

I'm one of those people who have to have the very first issue to be completely happy. So when I found out that she just started her own series, I couldn't wait to start collecting.

I would like to answer a few letters that I saw a few issues back:

1) The writer said that he/she couldn't believe how Elektra went all over the city in "that skimpy red costume." I am very pleased that hers is not like other costumes that are put on some of the leading females in other comics.

2) I don't think Elektra needs any female friends. I'm glad that Elektra portrays the women out there who prefer male friends over female.

3) Another writer said that Elektra needed to cut her hair. Elektra's hair is very long and lovely. She is a strong and bold woman, but the long hair adds that feminine touch to her.

4) I think the fact that Elektra is a modern dancer is great. I thank Marvel for acknowledging this fairly new and beautiful art. Being a dancer takes a lot of grace and full body movement, all of which she has from her ninja training.

I'm sorry, but I do think the logo is hard to see with all the other comics having almost exactly the same type of lettering. Her logo would be easier to see if it looked like it were chiseled in stone, and instead of diamonds on the side, sais would be cooler.

And I would like to praise the person who thought of her excellent wardrobe. Thanks so much for giving Elektra her own series!

Carly Peden
Montgomery, AL

Thanks, Carly! See, gang? This is what we need for the letters page: dialogue going back and forth between the fans! While we don't want bitter arguments and name-calling and such, a healthy debate once in a while is good. We don't just want to hear what you think about ELEKTRA, we want to hear what you think about other readers' opinions and insights, too!

Dear Bobbie and Polly,

While ELEKTRA Minus 1 was not the best issue this series had to offer thus far, I must admit to having thoroughly enjoyed the story told by Peter Milligan and Mike Deodato, Jr. Good self-contained stories are hard to come by these days, especially in the super hero genre, but this issue did the trick.

The concept of having Elektra go after her father's killers might have been worthy of a three-part story arc, but the way this story was told now also is very satisfying. Although the events here didn't add anything truly significant to Elektra's past, it nevertheless did add an interesting layer to the background against which she now lives her life. And since backgrounds can make or break a main character, I certainly applaud this move and hope future issues might pick up on this particular aspect of the story once again.

The way both Stick and the agent of the Hand were worked into the story has been most intriguing. How lovely an irony to see that Elektra thinks the sai she now carries comes from Stick and thus wears it with respect, while the weapon actually came from the agent of the Hand. Peter Milligan is famous for creating powerful ironies in so subtle a fashion, but even so, he caught me off guard and with my proverbial pants down with this one.

Other than that, the issue has been a pretty basic action-adventure tale. Under other circumstances, I might not have liked that, but having pointed out how pleased I am with the execution of the basic plot and especially with the nice small touches, it should come as no big surprise that ELEKTRA Minus 1 deserves to be called a very good issue. Thumbs up, indeed.

Olav Beemer
The Netherlands

Thanks for writing in, Olav! It's always nice to get a thumbs up from our readers! Your letter made a lot of good points, and you really seem to have a good grasp of what Elektra's all about. She owes quite a bit to Stick, and believing that she now carries the sai that came from him means a lot to her (even if we know where it really came from). Whether or not the sai has any physical ties to Stick is irrelevant; Elektra connects with Stick through a bond that goes way beyond physical objects. It's what the sai symbolizes that matters to her.

Dear Polly and Bobbie,

I used to follow Elektra around in DAREDEVIL issues and now she has her own monthly series! She is the one lady I love and would not get mad at. Elektra has powers she does not know how to use to her full ability yet. This sexy lady wheels and deals too fast for a car salesman. When she meets Stick or DD it's always a pleasure. The story is the best and her art is above the whole scene! She is an assassin for all times!

Kenneth Mosely
Augusta, GA

So, Kenneth, do you actually like the book? Just teasing! It's pretty obvious that you do, and we're glad! Elektra is surely a strong, independent woman who can hold her own in any situation whether it's a physical confrontation or not (although she does reeeeeally well in a fight, dont'cha think?). And you're right, she's got an arsenal of inner strength that she hasn't even begun to tap, but she's on her way to reaching her full potential.

Well, that's about all the room we've got this month! But stay tuned for next issue as:

NEXT ISSUE:

ELEKTRA AND DD KEEP HOT ON THE TRAIL OF THE INSANE AMERICAN SAMURAI, WHILE THEIR OWN FEELINGS FOR EACH OTHER ARE STARTING TO SPARK!

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